

8.0 SIGNIFICANT IRREVERSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES

Section 15126.2(c) of the CEQA Guidelines requires that an EIR consider significant irreversible environmental changes that would result from the proposed actions should they be implemented. According to the CEQA Guidelines:

Uses of nonrenewable resources during the initial and continued phases of the project may be irreversible since a large commitment of such resources makes removal or nonuse thereafter unlikely. Primary impacts and, particularly, secondary impacts (such as highway improvements which provide access to a previously inaccessible area) generally commit future generations to similar uses. Also irreversible damage can result from environmental accidents associated with the project. Irrecoverable commitments of resources should be evaluated to assure that such current consumption is justified.

Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would result in the short-term commitment of nonrenewable and/or slowly renewable energy resources and natural resources including lumber and other forest products, sand and gravel, asphalt, steel, copper, lead, other metals, and water due to construction activities. Both residential and non-residential development would require the long-term commitment of energy resources in the form of natural gas and electricity generated by coal, natural gas or hydroelectric power. Increased motor vehicle travel would result in the long-term commitment of fossil fuels unless alternative fuel vehicles ultimately replace the internal combustion engine on a broad scale. Other nonrenewable resources that would be affected by growth and development under the General Plan Update are the conversion of undeveloped land to urban uses. Policies and Programs are included in the proposed General Plan Update to mitigate the loss of use of these resources to acceptable levels.